

Allows for Loans to Seven Texas Counties

San Antonio, TX-Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced today that Medina County has been named as a natural disaster area by the President due to drought that occurred from September to December of 2007. The designation allows for farm operators and small, non-farm businesses in Medina and the six contiguous counties of Atacosa, Bandera, Bexar, Frio, Uvalde, and Zavala, to apply for low-interest loans. The deadline to apply for these loans is November 24, 2008.

"I am pleased that Medina and the other eligible counties will be afforded this relief so that people may recover from this natural disaster," said Rodriguez. "I hope that these loans can be of some assistance to people who are still in need of aide following the drought."

Farm operators in eligible counties may be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the U.S. Farm Service Agency (FSA). Local FSA offices will provide affected farmers with further information and applications. Offices may be found by calling (979) 680-5151 or by visiting the following web site: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=tx&agency=fsa>.

Small businesses in eligible counties may be considered for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Agency (SBA). For information and application forms, call toll free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez is a former social worker who currently serves on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the powerful House Committee on Appropriations. For more information on Congressman Rodriguez please visit <http://rodriguez.house.gov/>.